

News Release

National Wildlife Refuge System



For Release on May 18, 2009
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Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex
2127 SE Marine Science Drive, Newport, OR 97365

Explore Siletz Bay National Wildlife Refuge by Canoe or Kayak

Back by popular demand! The US Fish and Wildlife Service invite you to explore Siletz Bay National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) during a series of twelve guided canoe and kayak trips during June, July, and August 2009. On these outings visitors will spend about one and a half hours paddling through the heart of Siletz Bay NWR as they learn about the natural history of some of the plants, wading birds, waterfowl, and other wildlife that inhabit the estuary. Siletz Bay NWR includes some of the most scenic estuarine habitat along the Pacific Coast Scenic Byway. On either side of the Highway 101, starchy skeleton trees jut forth from the estuary and are reminiscent of a time when the salt marsh was diked. Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, and occasionally Bald Eagle can be seen roosting at the top of these snags. A variety of estuarine dependant birds including Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, and many species of waterfowl can be seen foraging in the tidally influenced waters. The refuge also provides nursery grounds for Coho and Chinook salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout. Siletz Bay NWR was established to protect salt marsh, brackish marsh, tidal sloughs, mudflats, coniferous and deciduous forestland, and the wildlife that depends on these unique habitats. Don't miss your chance to come out for an interpretive tour of Siletz Bay NWR!

Participants must provide their own canoe or kayak for each trip. For your safety and the safety of others we ask that you dress appropriately for paddling in all weather conditions. Water and snacks are encouraged. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can provide binoculars and field guides to use during the trip if needed. Space & parking is limited; therefore you must call ahead to make a reservation. The tours will take place at the following dates and times:

Tuesday, June 30	7:30 – 9:30 am	Tuesday, July 28	5:45 – 7:45 pm
Saturday, July 11	4:00 – 6:00 pm	Wednesday, July 29	7:15 – 9:15 am
Sunday, July 12	4:30 – 6:30 pm	Thursday, July 30	8:45 – 10:45 am
Monday, July 13	5:00 – 7:00 pm	Tuesday, August 11	4:00 – 6:00 pm
Tuesday, July 14	5:30 – 7:30 pm	Wed., August 12	4:45 – 6:45 pm
Monday, July 27	5:00 – 7:00 pm	Thursday, August 13	5:30 – 7:30 pm

Participants will meet at the Siletz Moorage (82 Siletz Hwy, Lincoln City, OR 97367) at the time listed for the date (note: launching is included in the times above). From Lincoln City go south on Highway 101, just before crossing the Siletz River bridge, turn left (east) onto the Siletz hwy and follow until reaching the Siletz Moorage on the right (south). From Newport go north on Highway 101, cross the Siletz River bridge and make the first right (east) onto the Siletz hwy and follow until reaching the Siletz Moorage on the right (south).

For further information or to make a reservation please see the Oregon Coast NWR Complex website: www.fws.gov/oregoncoast or contact McKenzie Reeves directly by phone at 541-270-5606 or via email at mckenzie_reeves@fws.gov.